



160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)
Media Advisory
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MEDIA ADVISORY
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Statement from 160th SOAR (A) Commander, Colonel Kevin Mangum

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – Feb. 20, 2007 – On the evening of February 17, 2007, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, with adjacent special operations units, suffered the loss of an exemplary group of Soldiers who died when their aircraft crashed during a mission being flown in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Every night, the uniquely skilled and highly trained Night Stalker aviators and crew members perform the most challenging and dangerous missions in support of our Special Operations brothers. It is with a very heavy heart that we recognize the loss of five of our Night Stalkers and three of our special operations forces brethren. Our thoughts are also with the seriously wounded Special Operations Forces, including our surviving crewmember, injured in the crash.

The aircraft was crewed by an exceptionally qualified team of professionals and was flying in a formation of other aircraft in performance of this mission. It is unclear at this time as to exactly what caused the aircraft to crash onto a high plain in southeastern Afghanistan. While it is important that we investigate and determine what caused this tragic event - which we will - our immediate and lasting concern is for the families and friends of the extraordinary men who served their country with distinction, made the ultimate sacrifice, and who lived by the motto: "Night Stalkers Don't Quit."

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